



Department of Radiology
Raymond and Ruth Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine
Civic Center Boulevard, 1st Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Patient Prep & Instruction Manual

Scheduled Test: Breast Sentinel Node

Date: _____

Time: _____

Where: You will report to Outpatient Radiology Reception (ground floor of the Perelman Center).

Purpose: This procedure provides the surgeon the knowledge of which specific lymph nodes the breast cancer may drain to. This allows the surgeon to locate and remove the appropriate lymph node or nodes.

Preparation: You are asked to eat nothing after 8:00pm and drink only liquids until midnight the day prior to your procedure. After midnight you are asked not to eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or cough drops. Smoking is also prohibited.

Medications should not be taken the day of the procedure.

With the exception of any cardiac medications unless directed differently by someone in pre-admissions or doctors office.

Allergies to lidocaine (numbing medication) should be discussed with the radiologist prior to the procedure so that an alternative medication may be used. Any other drug allergies should be discussed with your doctor's office.

APU (Ambulatory Procedure Unit) will call you at home between 3:00-7:00pm the day before your scheduled procedure. If you do not hear from them by 7:00pm please call 215-662-3528.

Procedure: This procedure can take between 30-45 minutes depending on the complexity of the cancer site.

Since you will be leaving our department to go to the nuclear medicine department we will be having you change out of your street clothes into a hospital gown and skirt. You will be given a set of hospital slippers to wear in place of your shoes. All of your belongings will be placed in a hospital

bag which you will keep with you at all times.

The radiologist will locate the area of interest through either ultrasound or mammography. Once this area is located the radiologist will numb the breast. A small needle will be inserted into the breast and a small amount of liquid nuclear medicine isotope will be injected into the breast. When this part of the procedure is done you will be sent up to the Nuclear Medicine Department to have your scan.

After Care: A nurse in the APU will give Discharge instructions to you after the surgical procedure. These will vary according to doctor and patient.

If you have any questions regarding the sentinel node procedure done in mammography, please call a nurse coordinator at 215-349-5469.